



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/)

For Immediate Release  
March 16, 2006

Contact: Christopher Kelley  
Phone (517) 373-0051

## **“Not forgetting their sacrifice” Protection of Military Monuments passes Senate**

**LANSING**—“Our fallen soldiers, our honored veterans, secured our cherished freedoms. Can we allow anyone to mistreat their memorials or subject them to encroachment? Should these memorials be displaced or hidden from view, their lands whittled away for another use? I hardly think that is just; nor does it serve our duty to remember them, and to teach our rising generations the price they paid for us,” state Sen. Bruce Patterson told the Senate today.

“Let it not be said of us that we ever forgot those who served, or the supreme sacrifice they made,” said Patterson, 7<sup>th</sup> District. “Were it not for their service, we would not be here today freely discussing and ordering our common life.”

Patterson sponsored Senate Bills 881 and 882, which passed the Senate today. The bills set necessary safeguards for memorials on state land. One bill establishes a Veterans’ Memorial Property Commission; the companion bill is a property act to oversee and protect military monuments on state lands.

Mr. Ron Nickels, adjutant of American Legion Post 251, recently testified before the Senate Seniors’ and Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “When there is encroachment on dedicated land, any part of a memorial, we feel this is an insult to living veterans, and to the fallen,” Nickels said.

Sen. Patterson concurred with Nickels, adding, “There is nothing now in Michigan law to prevent such encroachment on military memorials. Lincoln called the Gettysburg battlefield ‘hallowed ground.’ It would violate that sacred sense to plant a commercial establishment on that land, as was proposed.

“The same could happen here. But we can set new standards here in Michigan. No other state has such a law, and it could become a model piece of legislation nationwide. I hope local governments in Michigan will adopt similar municipal codes.”

Patterson added that we owe an incalculable debt to those who have given their lives for our freedom and our principles.

“Protecting their monuments is a lasting way to show our respect and appreciation to our living veterans, and to exalt the memory of those who gave their all for us,” Patterson concluded.

The legislation will now be considered by the House.

###

Comments from Sen. Patterson are available for download through the Senate Majority Multi-Media Link at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop).